

A Strong Presence in Our Community
Council President Scott Peters, First District
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The opening of the Northwestern Police Substation in Carmel Valley four months ago dramatically increased the police presence in and around Carmel Valley. Many residents, including members of my staff, tell me that they see patrol cars in their neighborhood nearly every day. This is a great comfort to families in Carmel Valley, and a great vindication of our efforts to locate this facility.

When I was elected to the City Council in 2000, the community was divided on where to place a new police station, and how to incorporate the design into the community. I worked with the Carmel Valley Planning Board and area residents to decide where and how to site and design the new facility. With that decision made, and the support of Police Chief William Lansdowne, we took the first steps toward the construction of the Northwestern Substation, completed this past March.

The station is currently staffed by 38 sworn officers, and an additional civilian employee, and headed up by newly selected Captain Kathleen Healey. In June, the City Council approved a budget which creates room for an additional 16 officers, to be added as the region grows.

Regular patrols serve as a constant reminder of police presence in the community. They help curb graffiti, car break-ins and excessive speed. While no one likes receiving a speeding ticket, patrols and citations protect motorists and pedestrians.

Some of the best feedback we've received has been about the station's dedicated officers. Patrol Officers Jane Jacobsen is assigned to cover 17 schools across Carmel Valley, keeping an eye on students and giving parents and teachers a greater sense of security.

Community Relations Officer Gaylon Sells, a resident of Carmel Valley, is already making a tremendous difference in the community. His familiarity with specific intersections and the people and places around Carmel Valley helps bring patrol officers up to speed and allows him to quickly address neighborhood nuisances and other issues.

Reflecting on the Del Mar Heights MAD Vote

I must admit I was surprised at last month's defeat of the proposed Del Mar Heights Road Maintenance Assessment District ("MAD"). Eighteen communities in Council District One, including Bird Rock and Carmel Valley, approved assessments in excess of the \$23 per year associated with the Del Mar Heights MAD.

This was an opportunity for the community to take control of its own beautification, rather than rely on the City. Landscaped medians bring color and beauty to neighborhoods around San Diego. I hoped this community would benefit from this feature as well.

However disappointed I may be, I recognize that this is the will of the community and I must respect that. Raised medians will still be built along Del Mar Heights Road to promote traffic safety, they simply will not be as beautiful as many of us in the community hoped.

Thank you to each property owner who took the time to learn about the proposed assessment district, and cast your vote. It is the active participation of residents like you that makes our community such a vibrant and engaging place in which to live.